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### Editor's note

My apologies for not putting out a newsletter for some time. But as the gliding season is in full swing now I hope to have regular updates on what's happening again. This is your newsletter, so everyone is en-

couraged and welcome to contribute. I just put it together. So please, send any contributions to [wolfrossmann@gmail.com](mailto:wolfrossmann@gmail.com) or [office@scottishglidingcentre.co.uk](mailto:office@scottishglidingcentre.co.uk).

*Wolf Rossmann*

### Broadening Horizons at Feshie

We hear from the first pilots to sample the delights of our new club flying initiative.

"Broadening Horizons" (or should that not be Widening Horizons and Broadening Experience?) is an SGC Flying initiative driven by the irrepresible Santiago Cervantes (Sant) to encourage more pilots to take more opportunities to fly at other sites and develop greater levels of experience leading to more confidence. The club Board wholeheartedly support this concept, even in these challenging times of aircraft

availability.

You fly at another site: Aboyne, Feshiebridge, Easterton or Millfield with an experienced cross-country pilot and instructor whose remit is to extend your possibilities and give you as much safe hands-on time as is practicable during the flight.

The site with the best forecast for the optimum soaring opportunities is chosen on the Wednesday before the weekend.

Here's a snippet of what you - as an SGC flying member - could be experiencing.

Howard Manning (DG 303 India 3) writes:

'After several weeks of unsuitable weather, and unstinting effort by Sant, Broadening Horizons finally got going on June 2nd. Kate Byrne would be coaching, and the pilots seeking to broaden their horizons were: John Shackleton, Callum Wilson and yours truly.'

Feshiebridge was the chosen site and the crew de-rigged the DG 505 on the Friday and headed north



launching on Saturday. Howard continues:

'I towed a large glider trailer for the first time, so another first, and then we rigged to start flying. Once in the air, we followed the tug into what I



felt was the dreaded 'north bowl', we skimmed the rocky ridge over Loch Eanaich; a bit different from Portmoak! My horizons were definitely being broadened.

After a while scratching, Kate decided we had better get back on the Feshie side

of the ridge. Now I was flying. We found some lift and climbed to 4000 feet setting off across country southwards. Now, this is what I had come for. Glorious lift. Splendid mountains. A smile spread across my face from ear to ear.

Apart from a few dubious fields in the Spey valley, I felt that there was nowhere to land, but Kate Byrne reassured me, noting about landable areas: "I am a complete wuss and I never fly out of comfortable reach of lovely Spey valley fields!"

This is what it is all about I thought. I am beginning to understand how these cross-country pilots think and operate, acquiring new skills and learning how to calibrate my understanding of whether one can reach a distant target.

We got to a first turn point and started northwards to the airfield to give the others a chance to fly. Approaching the airfield, I did the circuit and the landing; straight down the middle, fully rounded out with spontaneous applause from all the onlookers.

Felt great. Confidence increased. Horizons well and truly broadened!

And I was not alone, Callum had a similar flight, without the crag-hopping over Eanaich, and John had a good cross-country flight.

Three satisfied customers.

There is a bit of work involved in Broadening Horizons — and we gratefully gave the aircraft back, in one piece, to the club. Brilliant!

In fact, so brilliant was this first trip that John and Callum have been back already, and Howard will be off to Millfield later in the year.

John writes: 'Inspired by our previous experience, Callum and I did a day-trip visit on the Saturday 17th June with our LS 7.

We emailed Feshie in advance to check we were welcome, which of course we were, and both had a check flight for the different conditions, (flying from the opposite end).

All cleared and I was first up followed by Callum, who was a bit more adventurous than me and he got further afield, but we both had hour-plus flights which would not have happened at Portmoak that day due to weather conditions.

So, a bit of effort in rigging and de-rigging but Broadening Horizons has inspired us to do this more and we both feel more confident about tackling a different site and flying in mountain-



ous areas safely just following the parameters explained to us about step by step with back up plans in place at all times.

Do take advantage of this great club scheme if you can but watch out for the temptation of Feshie's famous après-glide.!

Thanks to Howard and John for their contributions and, of course, not forgetting Kate or our very own ring-master: Santiago!

Broadening Horizons is for all club members. Give it a go. You might like it.

*Your Roavin' Reporter (Gerry)*

## Learning a new skill

I thought I would just give you all a brief description of my recent winch training, I went solo just recently after a few half day Sundays training which included:

First task of the day DI the winch. i.e. check oil and water levels, cables linkages etc. sign the book just as you would with a glider.

Locate the winch on the field as discussed at the morning briefing.

Training covers all aspects of the winch including power settings for all types of gliders, wind settings, speed and direction, there are gauges to assist you to decide these setting (not rocket science).

All information IS at hand in a folder to help with type of glider, colour strop used, suggested winch launch speed and maximum speed.

I enjoyed all the training and it definitely gives me a better understanding of what the winch driver is trying to achieve during a launch, as well as knowing why we sometimes insist on which cable to use first.

I still have to be current, as you would with your flying, but I do feel now that I can assist the club by stepping in for a few hours to keep you pilots flying even if it's just to allow the winch driver a break for lunch.

I would thoroughly recommend to all members to try it, it's fun training and hopefully makes me a better pilot.

Eric Weatherly does the training and as he always says if you find the time to be trained he will find the time to train you.

I hope this helps you to decide to put your name forward.

*Lily McGhee*



## Cadet week

The highlight of cadet week for me was an unforgettable experience of flying for three hours and witnessing a breathtaking sunset. Starting with a winch launch and using thermals and the ridge to soar. Gliding through the skies, I cherished every moment, knowing that I was the sole glider in the air. As the sun began its descent, painting the sky with vibrant hues, I couldn't help but be captivated by the beauty unfolding before my eyes. It remains one of my most cherished memories of cadet week. Upon landing, to my surprise and delight, a delicious pizza awaited me, adding the perfect finishing touch to an already remarkable day.

I've been gliding for two years since my 14th birthday. Within three months, I achieved the significant milestone of going solo. In the follow-

ing year, I successfully obtained my bronze certification and now, this summer, I am dedicated to attaining my cross-country endorsement.

The cadet week proved to be highly successful as numerous aspiring cadets commenced their flight training, achieving significant progress with several flights under their belt. Furthermore, existing cadets made commendable strides in earning their bronze and cross-country endorsements. I hope to see lots of fellow cadets around the airfield again soon.

In my opinion, the cadet program offers a wealth of valuable experiences beyond flight training. I highly recommend that all cadets actively participate in various tasks to enhance their skills in managing the airfield. By doing so, not only will they improve their abilities, but they will also

gain support from others who witness their dedication. Additionally, I firmly believe that maintaining a regular presence at the club



plays a vital role in achieving solo flights and expanding one's social circle. Engaging in the numerous enjoyable social events offered is another recommendation I have for cadets, as it fosters a sense of community and brings immense pleasure to all involved.

Through my participation in the cadet program,

I have gained valuable experience, particularly in flight, setting me up well for a career in aviation and I know I will continue gliding for the rest of my life. Additionally, the cadet program



has also taught me how to communicate to many new people and has equipped me with essential leadership skills for lifelong benefit.

Andrew Power

## Visit from the BGA

At the end of May we had a visit from the BGA. Yvonne Elliott came up to inform us about the *Women and Inclusivity in Gliding* Initiative. We had a very informative meeting and found out that we are slightly above other gliding clubs in attracting women to the sport. But we have to do more and be more welcoming, especially to women on an Air Experience flight or Mini course, to attract them to starting to learn gliding.

We are now accredited by the BGA as 1 of 3

WinG clubs. Latona Lai accepted the role of Women Ambassador at the SGU. More about WinG at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/women-and-inclusivity-in-gliding/>

Yvonne is also responsible for Junior gliding and reviewed our operations regarding Juniors. As a result we continue to be a BGA accredited Junior



## Club News - Booked Flying

You spoke and we listened! For quite some time now there has been feedback from our members regarding Booked Flying days and the additional costs involved.

We would like to encourage as many of you to come along as often as possible, utilise the resource that we have available, and of course your membership itself, across all days of the week.

Starting immediately, we are trial running the following changes to see if we can make it a viable

option going forward.

***New Booked Flying Day Rate: £10 (Reduced from £35) and no surcharge***

To clarify, flying on Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays under 'Booked Flying' will now have a flat fee of £10 plus your standard flying fee's as stated on the tariff sheet.

We hope this will assist in promoting more of you to come along on these days and take the opportunity to fly.